GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1888
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat in metric tonnes procured by the Government agencies during the current year and the States from which maximum and minimum procurement has been made;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the wheat procured by the Government agencies in metric tonnes during the current year has been stored in open instead of storing the same in safe godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantity of wheat in metric tonnes not procured by the Government agencies from the farmers during the current year due to which the farmers were compelled to sell the wheat in the open market through the middlemen of lower price that the prescribed procurement price; and

(e) the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): As on 30.7.2001, a quantity of 206.15 MTs of wheat has been procured by Government agencies during the current Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002. A quantity of 105.60 lakh MTs of wheat has been procured in Punjab which is the maximum and a quantity of 0.01 lakh MTs has been procured in Himachal Pradesh which is the minimum.

(b): Yes, Sir. The wheat stocks procured by the Government agencies during the current year have been temporarily stored in CAP (open). The stocks are preserved properly on scientific lines by the trained and qualified technical staff by undertaking frequent and periodical inspections and imparting prophylactic and curative treatments.

(c): Presently the Food Corporation of India is holding a stock of 32.90 million tonnes of foodgrains i.e. wheat, rice and paddy. Out of this, 74.18 lakh tonnes are kept in the open storage godowns. The stocks lying in the open storage are mainly wheat and a small quantity of paddy.

(d): During the current Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002, till 30.7.2001, the total market arrival of wheat reported was 216.29 lakh tonnes. Out of this, a quantity of 206.15 lakh tonnes of wheat conforming to FAQ specifications has been procured by the Government Agencies at Minimum Support Price.

(e): The steps taken by the Government to help the farmers are as follows:-

(i) Adequate number of purchase centres have been opened in different States to avoid distress sale by the farmers.

(ii) Quick payment is being made to the farmers for their produce.

(iii) Government accepts foodgrains stocks at Minimum Support Price without any quantitative restrictions.

(iv) Adequate publicity is given by the Government about the procurement prices, FAQ specifications and purchase centres.